

Research Paper Study Guide

***Directions:** Read the following sample of a research essay. Then answer the questions that follow.

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Language Arts- 5

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Air Pollution: Drastically Changing Our World

Nearly 37 million people live in areas with unhealthy polluted air. Air pollution occurs when the air contains gases, dust, fumes or odors that are harmful to the health of humans, animals, or plants. Air pollution is caused by various issues including both natural and human factors, has many harmful effects on the environment, but can be prevented if action is taken.

To begin, natural and human factors play a role in the spread of air pollution. Natural factors contributing to air pollution include volcanic eruption and bacterial action. In addition, human factors that cause air pollution include the burning of fuels from automobiles and power plants, the transfer of chlorofluorocarbons from refrigerators and air-conditioners into the air, as well as the release of harmful chemicals from military practices such as nuclear weapons, missiles, and rockets.

Next, air pollution has many negative effects on humans and ecosystems. Air pollution causes harmful health effects on the heart and lungs of humans, and it also can cause many diseases or even death. In addition, acid rain resulting from air pollution can destroy the leaves of plants and cause other damaging effects to wildlife. Furthermore, air pollution destroys the ozone layer that protects plants, animals, and humans.

However, three major ways to prevent air pollution include taking action at home, driving wisely, and making smart purchases. To start, people can take action at home by recycling, planting trees, and quitting smoking. Additionally, driving wisely can reduce air pollution through the use of car pools, modes of public transportation, and purchase of energy conserving oil. Finally, society can prevent air pollution by making smarter purchases with items that can be recycled or choosing efficient, low-polluting models of vehicles.

In conclusion, natural and human factors play a large role in the spread of air pollution, it causes many harmful effects on the environment, but several steps can be taken to prevent air pollution in the future. “The Natural Resources Defense Council has joined other public health, advocacy, and environmental organizations in the “Clean Air Promise” (Smith 33). However, air pollution is a severe social issue that will continue to harm our current environment and drastically affect the lives of future generations if serious action is not taken immediately.

I. Thesis Statement:

1. What is the function of a thesis statement?
2. Where should the thesis statement be located?
3. What is the thesis statement of the research paper above?

II. Notecards:

4. What types of information should be included on a notecard?
5. Complete the notecard below using the information provided (Use only the info. needed):
 - Reasons for air pollution
 - Pg. 38
 - Source #2
 - Jane Kishborn (author)
 - *Air Pollution: Drastically Changing Our World*
 - Air pollution can be caused by harmful fuels in automobiles

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III. Outline:

6. What is the function of an outline?

7. *Format & Organization:* Complete the outline below. Use details from the sample research essay above to fill in any blank sections.

Air Pollution

I. Introduction

A. Hook

1. 37 million people effected by air pollution

B. Definition:

1. Condition in which air is contaminated by foreign substances, or the substances themselves

C. Background:

1. Air pollution occurs when the air contains gases, dust, fumes or odors

D. _____

1. _____

II. _____

A. Natural factors

1. _____

B. _____

1. burning of fuels from automobiles and power plants

III. _____

A. _____

- 1.Heart, lungs

- 2.Diseases or death

B. Damaging effects on wildlife

- 1.Destroy leaves of plants

IV. _____

1. _____

B. Driving wisely

1. Use car pools

2. public transportation

3. purchase energy-conserving oil

C. Make smart purchases

1. _____

V. _____

A. Re-define the thesis statement

B. The Natural Resources Defense Council- quote by Smith

C. Warning for future generations

IV. Introduction & Conclusion Paragraphs

8. Describe the function of the opening and closing paragraphs:

9. What type of information is included in each paragraph?

V. Paraphrase

10. What does it mean to “paraphrase”?

11. What are the other two forms of note taking?

1) Paraphrase

2) _____

3) _____

12. Paraphrase the following line: *Additionally, driving wisely can reduce air pollution through the use of car pools, public transportation, and purchase of energy conserving oil.*

VI. Developmental order

13. What is the developmental order of a research paper? (Describe the order)

14. What is the developmental order of each paragraph?

VII. Citing

15. Use the following information to develop a quote using proper parenthetical citations at the end of the sentence:

Author: Jane Kishborn	Page: 2
Quote: To start, people can take action at home by recycling, planting trees, and quitting smoking.	

16. What does it mean to “cite your source” in a Works Cited Page?

17. Which sources should be added to the Works Cited Page? What information should be included about these sources?

18. What is the purpose of a Works Cited Page?

19. Create a Works Cited Page using the following information:

Source 1: Book	Source 2: Magazine Article	Source 3: Article from Website
Title: Air Pollution: History, Science, and Solutions Author: Mark Z. Jacobson Publishing City: New York Publishing Company: Cambridge Press Date: May 2012	Article Title: Air Pollution Alert for Twin Cities Author: Paul Walsh Magazine Title: Star Tribune Date: February 26, 2013 Pages: 6-7	Title: Clean Air Saves Lives Author: National Resource Defense Council Date: January 27, 2012 Date Accessed: March 3, 2013 Website: www.nrdc.org

Shakespeare 4

Works Cited Page
